

1. An airbag module for installation in a vehicle, comprising:
an airbag cushion;
a diffuser positioned inside the airbag cushion, the diffuser comprising a diffuser
5 panel with a plurality of venting apertures disposed therein; and
an inflator attached to the diffuser, wherein at least a portion of the inflator is
located inside the airbag cushion.
2. The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the inflator comprises an inflation gas
dissemination portion that releases inflation gases upon activation of the inflator, and
10 wherein the inflation gas dissemination portion of the inflator is located inside the airbag
cushion.
3. The airbag module of claim 1, wherein airbag cushion comprises a mouth for
receiving the portion of the inflator that is located inside the airbag cushion, and wherein
the mouth of the airbag cushion is substantially smaller than the diffuser panel.
- 15 4. The airbag module of claim 1, wherein only a single layer of the airbag cushion is
spread across a first side of the diffuser panel.
5. The airbag module of claim 4, further comprising a housing that is attached to the
diffuser, wherein a folded portion of the airbag cushion is situated between a second side
of the diffuser panel and the housing.

6. The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the diffuser panel comprises a plurality of snap lines that break upon activation of the inflator.
7. The airbag module of claim 1, further comprising a mounting bracket that is attached to the inflator and that is attachable to a support structure in the vehicle.
- 5 8. The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the inflator is a disk inflator.
9. The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the inflator is a cylindrical inflator.
10. The airbag module of claim 1, wherein the shape of the diffuser panel conforms to the shape of a dashboard in the vehicle.

11. An airbag module for installation in a vehicle, comprising:
an airbag cushion;
a diffuser positioned inside the airbag cushion, the diffuser comprising a diffuser panel with a plurality of venting apertures disposed therein; and
5 an inflator attached to the diffuser, wherein the inflator comprises an inflation gas dissemination portion that releases inflation gases upon activation of the inflator, and wherein the inflation gas dissemination portion of the inflator is located inside the airbag cushion.
12. The airbag module of claim 11, wherein only a single layer of the airbag cushion
10 is spread across a first side of the diffuser panel.
13. The airbag module of claim 12, further comprising a housing that is attached to the diffuser, wherein a folded portion of the airbag cushion is situated between a second side of the diffuser panel and the housing.
14. The airbag module of claim 13, wherein the airbag cushion comprises a mouth for
15 receiving the portion of the inflator that is located inside the airbag cushion, and wherein the mouth of the airbag cushion is substantially smaller than the diffuser panel.
15. The airbag module of claim 14, wherein the diffuser panel comprises a plurality of snap lines that break upon activation of the inflator, thereby enabling the folded portion of the airbag cushion to exit the diffuser as the airbag cushion inflates.

16. The airbag module of claim 15, further comprising a mounting bracket that is attached to the inflator and that is attachable to a support structure in the vehicle.
17. The airbag module of claim 16, wherein the shape of the diffuser panel conforms to the shape of a dashboard in the vehicle.
- 5 18. The airbag module of claim 17, wherein the inflator is a disk inflator.
19. The airbag module of claim 17, wherein the inflator is a cylindrical inflator.

20. An airbag module for installation in a vehicle, comprising:

an airbag cushion;

a diffuser positioned inside the airbag cushion, the diffuser comprising a diffuser panel with a plurality of venting apertures disposed therein; and

5 an inflator attached to the diffuser, wherein the inflator comprises an inflation gas dissemination portion that releases inflation gases into the airbag cushion upon activation of the inflator, and wherein the line of gas flow between the inflation gas dissemination portion of the inflator and the airbag cushion does not include an attachment joint.

21. The airbag module of claim 20, wherein the airbag cushion comprises a mouth for
10 receiving the portion of the inflator that is located inside the airbag cushion, and wherein the mouth of the airbag cushion is substantially smaller than the diffuser panel.

22. The airbag module of claim 20, wherein only a single layer of the airbag cushion is spread across a first side of the diffuser panel.

23. The airbag module of claim 22, further comprising a housing that is attached to
15 the diffuser, wherein a folded portion of the airbag cushion is situated between a second side of the diffuser panel and the housing.

24. An airbag module for installation in a vehicle, comprising:
an airbag cushion having a mouth;
a diffuser positioned inside the airbag cushion, the diffuser comprising a diffuser panel with a plurality of venting apertures disposed therein and an inflator chamber
5 attached to a bottom side of the diffuser panel, wherein the inflator chamber comprises an inflator hole that is substantially aligned with the mouth of the airbag cushion; and
an inflator attached to the diffuser, wherein the inflator comprises an inflation gas dissemination portion that releases inflation gases upon activation of the inflator, and wherein the inflator extends through the mouth of the airbag cushion and the inflator hole
10 in the inflator chamber so that the inflation gas dissemination portion of the inflator is located inside the airbag cushion.

25. The airbag module of claim 24, wherein the mouth of the airbag cushion is substantially smaller than the diffuser panel.

26. The airbag module of claim 24, wherein only a single layer of the airbag cushion
15 is spread across a top side of the diffuser panel.

27. The airbag module of claim 26, further comprising a housing that is attached to the diffuser, wherein a folded portion of the airbag cushion is situated between the bottom side of the diffuser panel and the housing.

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28. An airbag module for installation in a vehicle, comprising:
- an airbag cushion;
- a diffuser positioned inside the airbag cushion, the diffuser comprising a diffuser panel with a plurality of venting apertures disposed therein;
- 5 an inflator having an inflation gas dissemination portion that releases inflation gases in response to activation of the inflator; and
- means for attaching the inflator to the diffuser so that the inflation gas dissemination portion of the inflator is located inside the airbag cushion.
29. The airbag module of claim 28, wherein only a single layer of the airbag cushion
- 10 is spread across a top side of the diffuser panel, and further comprising means for retaining a folded portion of the airbag cushion within the diffuser prior to discharge of the inflator.
30. The airbag module of claim 29, further comprising means for permitting the folded portion of the airbag cushion to exit the diffuser as the airbag cushion inflates.
- 15 31. The airbag module of claim 28, further comprising means for attaching the inflator to a support structure in the vehicle.